

Amory (Thos C.)

AN

ADDRESS

DELIVERED AT THE

DEDICATION OF THE CITY HOSPITAL,

MAY 24, 1864,

BY

THOMAS C. AMORY, JR.



BOSTON:

J. E. FARWELL AND COMPANY, PRINTERS

37 CONGRESS STREET.

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from T. C. Amory, Junr

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ADDRESS.

IN consecrating this Hospital to the Great Being who has given us the means and disposition to erect it, to serve its purpose as we trust for centuries, we should do injustice to our better nature, did we not pause upon their threshold, and express our gratitude. We have indeed cause to be thankful in having this added to the golden circle of charities for which Boston has been long and honorably distinguished. I congratulate you, Sir, and the members of the City Council, that it is your privilege, as almoners and stewards of your constituents, to transmit to their coming generations, so goodly an héritage.

Rather more than three years have elapsed since the superintendence of this Institution, then only in contemplation, was entrusted to a Committee, of which, during my connection with the City Council, I was the appointed Chairman; and having had since the

honor to preside over the Board of Trustees, will explain my being permitted, now that its buildings are approaching completion, to participate in their dedication. Far be it from me to claim any credit for their construction, or for the organization of that admirable system of government which promises to prove a model one in its administration. The gentlemen with whom I have been so long and so intimately associated, will admit that my heart has been in the work, and that my best efforts have co-operated with their own in endeavoring to bring it to perfection. But theirs is the honor of success.

If in this consummation of a hope long cherished, and now happily realized, we cannot be unmindful of their zeal and public spirit, which have contributed so largely to the result, it would be idle with this noble edifice extending up into the heavens above us, and with their services fresh upon our minds, to attempt to discriminate in praise. This belongs to no exclusive few; but should be generously shared by all who have given us their aid. What has been accomplished is their all-sufficient monument; but permit me, having had favorable opportunities for observation, to bear witness to the fidelity and untiring self-devotion of one and all.

When the corner-stone was laid, no masonic rites, no religious exercises sanctified our labors. Circumstances not to be controlled compelled these accus-

tomed and appropriate ceremonials to be deferred. But to-day we have made amends in invoking the blessing of God upon the future usefulness of this Institution. Our people, our whole people, all that especially constitutes us an enlightened, charitable, religious community, having through their constituted authorities constructed this Hospital, now consecrate it upon the altar of Christian humanity. In gloom and despondency we laid its foundations; in uncertainty and tribulation we have erected its walls; and now what more suitable oblation can we offer, with grateful hearts, that we are still permitted to indulge the hope of again possessing our country undiminished, — our liberties unimpaired.

If comparatively few generations of men have passed since our puritan fathers first planted themselves on these then sterile coasts, we have good reason to be proud of the record they have left us. When we recall the various vicissitudes, the peculiar hardships of their lot, their many perils by land and sea, we understand how their principal strength was in that trust which they constantly exhibited in praise and prayer. What period of their eventful history but brought experiences to improve and to elevate? When we remember their wise and virtuous magistrates, the noble men and women whose names come down to us in every household, embalmed in deeds of charity, the long succession of pure and pious clergymen, who, if

intolerant of opinion, encouraged their people to every good work, we recognize the seed that was sown in the fruit ripening around us, in institutions for the supply of every want, for the relief of suffering, for the moral training as well as physical comfort of their inmates. Each successive year but strengthens the assurance that we are not degenerate, that we are still true to our traditions, that Boston is pre-eminently a Christian city; and that the event which we this day celebrate, in no pharisaical spirit, occupies a most appropriate place in her annals.

It is worthy of note that, before the Christian era, such foundations as this, or indeed any other for charitable purposes, were wholly unknown. The Jew drove the leper into the wilderness to perish. Consideration for human weakness formed no part of heathen morality. It was from our Saviour's teachings, inculcated by precept and example, that sprang the universal sense of obligation to minister to the necessities of the poor and feeble. Lazarettos and Hospitals with other kindred charities, clustered under the shelter of the Church, and before the Reformation their charge was the special duty of the Priests. In Protestant countries, while private benevolence is ever on the alert, it has become the settled policy and adopted law, that the public shall accord a reasonable measure of relief to all that need.

Wherever the cross is recognized as the emblem

of life and hope of immortality, spacious edifices, raised at public expense or by private contribution, throw open their doors to all who will receive their benefits. Whatever be the form in which humanity is afflicted, whether orphan helplessness or the infirmities of age, whether it be the mind, conscience, or appetite that is disordered, for all there is a refuge or a cure. And for such as those, for whose alleviation we have erected these walls, how infinitely and variously has beneficence provided. In the old world and in the new, wherever an enlightened philanthropy has fostered a sense of this sacred duty, liberal endowments, scientific care, and angel ministrations have smoothed the pillow of disease. In London, where the hospitals are almost exclusively private foundations, monuments of individual munificence, and under private administration; in Paris, where they derive a support from the public, and are under government control, beds in proportion far more numerous than in any of our own cities, are at the disposal of the sick. A century ago our own Franklin aided to found a hospital in the home of his adoption, and later the great commercial metropolis of the Continent established another; but a long period was destined to elapse before either could compare in completeness with those everywhere to be found in the great capitals of Europe.

There alone, sixty years ago, could an aspirant for proficiency in medical science, acquire experience to

accomplish himself for his honored career. There the present head, by universal suffrage, of our faculty,* laid the deep and broad foundations of that professional knowledge which have made him so pre-eminently useful to our community, of which, in a ripe old age, with a mind in pristine vigor, he still remains one of the most distinguished ornaments. In returning to his native land, his earnest desire was to secure for his own countrymen similar advantages for instruction, and for the relief of unnecessary suffering. He estimated aright the cost, but still had faith in the generosity of the affluent. His professional associates, and prominently among them Dr. Warren, a name in three generations distinguished for surgical skill and for private worth, lent their cordial co-operation. The Embargo, and the war, compelled delay, but, when returning peace again encouraged effort, the needed means were supplied with the utmost promptitude. The State gave the Province House, and established the Life Office; near eighty thousand dollars were contributed in three days through ward organizations; and it is said that, at a meeting of wealthy citizens round a convivial board in Bowdoin Square, more than twenty thousand dollars were subscribed.

It was not alone the cure of the sick, but the care of the insane for which they were providing; and in little more than ten years from the date of the charter in

* Dr. James Jackson.

1811, both institutions, that in Boston and that in Somerville, were in successful operation.* Ever since, these foundations have been cherished objects for the bounty of the opulent, more than a million and a half of dollars having been given or bequeathed for their support. Many an interesting anecdote might be gleaned in connection with their early history, did our time permit. In one instance where a favorite servant fell ill of a fatal disease, Dr. Jackson, the family physician, advised her removal to the Hospital, where she could receive attentions which her situation demanded more effectively and economically than in a private house. Here she was frequently visited by her employer, who was so well satisfied with the management, and convinced of the good it was effecting, that, soon after, he left one hundred and twenty thousand dollars to the institution, one branch of which still bears his name.

If physicians, familiar with the want of proper medical care in the dwellings of the poor, can best appreciate the value of ample hospital accommodation, if all of us have had occasion to provide for persons having such claims upon our compassion, individuals relieved often feel an especial sense of obligation for

* It is recorded, and may serve for encouragement, if our beds are not immediately in requisition, that the first patient was received at the Hospital on the third day of September, 1821, and that there was no other application before the twentieth.

the benefits conferred. This was conspicuously illustrated in a memorable incident in our annals, forming a golden link between us and the parent institution, the augury, as we hope, of continued good fellowship in the promotion of their common objects. Our earliest benefactor, after wandering over many seas, and enduring, beyond the reach of professional aid, the most cruel sufferings, was the first to be operated upon in the Massachusetts General Hospital. Grateful for the tender assiduities of the eminent surgeon in charge, and for his subsequent immunity from pain, a quarter of a century later he gave the larger part of his estate towards the foundation of this City Hospital.

When the Massachusetts Hospital was established, our population consisted of about forty-five thousand souls; when it had doubled, the dimensions of the building were enlarged in the same proportion, and now that we numbered as many again, it was reasonable that as much additional space should be provided.

Our extended limits, as well as a growing impression that small hospitals, if of sufficient capacity for classification and efficient control, are more convenient to the public, probably induced Mr. Goodnow, instead of adding to the funds of the elder foundation, to provide for another; and his bequest was conditional on its location in the Eleventh Ward or at South Boston, where, when he made his will, he was residing. This instrument bears date the twelfth of July, 1849, a

few weeks after the opening of the temporary wooden building on the Fort Hill Mall for the reception of cholera patients. At the time, this king of terrors, with besom of destruction, was again sweeping through the cities of our land, and of the six thousand that were here prostrated at his approach, more than six hundred perished. This fearful visitation, and the obvious necessity of more adequate preparation against its possible recurrence, no doubt influenced in some measure the testator in this disposition of his property.

The physicians, under whose efficient direction and care the Fort Hill Hospital had been erected and conducted, and among them with paramount claim to grateful acknowledgment Dr. Clark and Dr. Buckingham, made an appeal, in the autumn of that year, to the City Council for the erection of a more permanent structure. The views of Dr. Clark, submitted later, as city physician, to the government, for its information, were many of them substantially incorporated in the plan eventually adopted. In 1856, a memorial forcibly representing the urgent want of more ample provision for the sick poor, prepared by one of our trustees, Dr. William R. Lawrence, was presented to the Mayor, Hon. Alexander H. Rice, who recommended the subject to public attention in his annual address in 1857. Other medical gentlemen of the highest rank in their profession, petitioned in aid. The Committee appointed for its consideration, of which Hon. Joseph M. Wight-

man was chairman, reported in favor of vigorous measures. The building originally constructed and used for a Lying-in-Hospital on Springfield Street, afterwards occupied by the Female Medical College, and now as a Discharged Soldiers Home, was purchased; and an act 1858, ch. 115, authorizing the City to establish a hospital procured from the General Court. A clause, inserted at the instance of neighbors needlessly alarmed, that the institution should not be within three hundred feet of any church or schoolhouse then built, prevented the use of the estate purchased for the purpose intended. Not discouraged by this disappointment the project was continued in charge of able committees, and although prior to 1861 nothing had been accomplished but the selection of the present location, it ceased not to form in some of its relations a prominent topic for deliberation and discussion.

When the charge devolved upon our Committee, we had every reason to believe, from the prevailing sentiments of the City Council, that we were expected to proceed, without delay, to the erection of the buildings. Still, prudence as well as propriety, suggested that our Board of legally constituted medical advisers should be consulted as to the actual need. Assembled together, each in turn, without hesitation, and with a full and unreserved expression of opinion, encouraged immediate action. Later, when the dark clouds of civil discord, which had so long lowered over

our political horizon, had broken, and the fall of Sumter, the disaster of Bull Run, filled with dismay every breast for the future of our country, one at least of their number thought we should reserve our resources for the more pressing exigences of the war. These considerations were respectfully weighed by the Committee, who concluded that if the war were protracted, the proposed institution would be useful, if not for the reception of the wounded, for the numerous cases of chronic disease produced by exposure in the field. Steps, moreover, had already been taken, from which it was not easy to recede.

The responsibility of selecting a location had been assumed by our predecessors, but doubts had arisen if this were of all others the one to be preferred. A site on solid ground, more central, more elevated, and nearer to the sea, seemed more eligible, if to be obtained. But to each and every spot were found objections, outweighing any advantage it possessed. Finally discouraged, we returned to our earlier choice. Here, we had ample space. The public domain of seventy acres could well spare one tenth of its area for so sacred a purpose. Indeed, this consecration of a part to be covered with handsome edifices, and adorned with flowers and shrubs, would enhance the value of the rest. Representations were made to the Land Commission, that the size of the lot might not meet the future requirements of the Hospital, and the location

was enlarged to double the extent originally appropriated.*

Meanwhile, many of our most eminent architects, after devoting several weeks to the elaboration of designs for the building, submitted them in competition for the premium and for adoption. With so much for encomium, in their elegance of form, graceful decoration, and convenience of arrangement, selection was difficult. Others than that finally adopted, had strong claims upon our preference. After long study and reflection, and successively rejecting those least suited to our purpose, the Committee and their advisers coincided with remarkable unanimity upon the plan of Mr. Bryant. In its preparation, he had extensively availed himself of the suggestions of Dr. Clark as to the elevation and general disposition of the pavilions and several apartments. What especially recommended this to our choice, was, that all parts of the wards were abundantly exposed to sun and air.

* Should the South Bay be used to any extent as a receptacle for sewage, like the Back Bay it will soon become a nuisance, and find its way into the State coffers for the advantage of every part of the Commonwealth but Boston. But if enlarged and excavated throughout, as it has been in part, six feet below low-tide level, and retained as a tidal reservoir for the preservation of Fort Point Channel and its wharves, this ornamental basin will add to the attractiveness and salubrity of the whole neighborhood; its margin devoted to the useful arts, and kept free from all that are offensive, will be of value for trade and industry; and its breezes freshened by the tides, bring health and cure to our patients. Let neither State nor City Government permit its destruction.

Upon our representation, the City Council gave the requisite authority in concurrence to the committees on the Hospital and Public Buildings. After the settlement of conflicting opinions, the accepted plan was carefully rearranged, so that the group of buildings should front towards Harrison Avenue ; and, before the close of the year, the piles were driven and the contracts signed. The low price of labor and materials, and high premiums on City Stock when sold, both told in favor of the City.

In the original estimates, no allowance had been made for that massive stone-work beneath the surface, indispensable in raising the basement to a safe grade above the tide, or for that system of heating and ventilation, now becoming more and more generally adopted, wherever large numbers of persons are congregated under the same roof. Nor did we include our beautiful dome, one of the noblest architectural ornaments of the city, which, while suited to the dignity of a public edifice of this nature, is a constant source of delight to every beholder. Large as has been the cost, there has been little profit to any, and loss to a few ; and the annual expenditure of one hundred thousand dollars has imposed no heavy burden on the public treasury.

Were we permitted, with our present experience, to recommence our task, the control would be left with a single committee, and to fewer minds. Frequently

differences of opinion and misapprehension of our respective rights and powers, threatened serious interruption. This was an unavoidable consequence of the adopted plan, which still had the important recommendation of securing for its successful accomplishment a great variety of information and ability, and of enlisting the vigilant supervision of a large number of the City Council. With so many to be considered and consulted, it is remarkable that so great a degree of harmony prevailed. But one generous spirit seemed to animate all in perfecting the plans, expediting the construction, and securing the best material and workmanship at a moderate cost. Time and toil were cheerfully yielded, at the sacrifice of private interests and personal ease, by members of the committees, whose counsels were valuable beyond price.

If the progress made has ever disappointed expectation, it must be borne in mind that with the exception of the piles under the walls, driven about thirty feet in depth, and placing in position some portion of the rough stone foundation, no part of the building was commenced before the spring of 1862. Consequently but little more than two years have been consumed in construction. The rally of the North to sustain the Government in its efforts to suppress the Rebellion, only more general and enthusiastic with every discouragement, the increasing demand for skilled workmen to provide our navy and army with vessels

and munitions of war, enhanced wages and diminished the supply of mechanical labor. Notwithstanding these embarrassments, the despatch has rarely been equalled in any structure, of the like magnitude; and delays, which at the moment provoked impatience, proved of advantage in hardening and maturing the work as it advanced, and affording opportunity for many improvements.

Much remains to be accomplished. Years must elapse before all parts of the design will be brought to the degree of perfection originally contemplated. Whatever is absolutely indispensable to efficient discipline, or exacted by good taste or decorum, will not be delayed. Preliminary measures have already been taken for a substantial enclosure, for isolated apartments for offensive diseases, for grading and decorating the grounds. Gardens in due season will be laid out and planted for the recreation of convalescents. Roses and lilachs, the splash of fountains and the warble of birds, will make that exercise agreeable which is essential to speedy cure, and for which our ample space will admit of walks of sufficient length. Should the open corridors connecting the buildings be closed with glass, and made comfortable in the cooler weather with steam, patients whose frames are not sufficiently reinvigorated to brave the open air, surrounded by plants and objects of art, and for a while removed from

the confinement and monotony of their ward life, would be cheered and amused.

Since our municipal organization, the construction of buildings for educational, charitable, and economical purposes, has kept pace with our growth, the government having been exceedingly liberal for every need, except for its own accommodation. Even this exception will soon be removed by the magnificent structure now in process of erection. These buildings are adapted to our wants, and their cost should not be regretted. Our debt, independent of the expenditure for water works, on which the revenue more than pays the interest, but little exceeds three millions of dollars, about equal to one year's City expenditure, not far from one per cent upon our valuation. Indeed, had provision been seasonably made in central positions, for military, market, and other similar uses, more respect would have been paid to this wise policy. We trust that a liberal proportion of our municipal outlay will ever be for permanent works of utility, for public buildings, not only substantial but ornamental; that our modern Athens may have its apples of gold in pictures of silver, and be as distinguished for its material beauty as for its achievements in art, literature, and science, for its religious culture and charitable contributions. Be it ever remembered, in connection with our history, that there has not been a single vote in opposition, or

objection made to any appropriation for the Hospital. But it has been from the beginning, and no doubt will continue, an object of affectionate regard with the City Council.

If not yet complete, our buildings and arrangements conform very generally to the hygienic and sanitary rules laid down by the highest authorities in Europe upon Hospital construction; they have been pronounced by some of our own most competent judges to be the best upon this continent; and we may well flatter ourselves that we possess an Institution of no ordinary excellence. Under our experienced Board of Control, with our well-selected medical attendants, our admirably qualified Superintendent, with a system of Rules and Regulations, elaborated after long deliberation with the utmost care, I congratulate you, gentlemen, upon the favorable auspices under which, by the blessing of Providence, we open these halls.

Let us hope that by a generous use of them we shall continue to deserve that blessing. The Statute authorizes the establishment of a hospital for the reception of "persons who, by misfortune or poverty, may require relief during temporary sickness." The bequest of Mr. Goodnow is limited to an Institution similar to the Massachusetts, to be suitably endowed, but not for the relief of paupers supported by the City. These provisions are sufficiently explicit, and, by a reasonable construction, should embrace all

of our inhabitants whose complaints are not of a permanent character. We have no paupers supported by the City outside of the Institutions. All who prefer toil to dependence, or, when well, subsist upon their own resources, should be suffered, under proper limitations, to use these wards.

But the respectable poor, virtuous, neat, and well-conducted, should not be subjected to daily intercourse with the profligate, who, by intemperance and vicious indulgence, have degraded themselves to the level of the brute; whose unseemly habits, profane and rude conversation, would soon drive all others away. For their convenience these apartments were never intended, but both City and State have made other provision. The government should be firm in declining to receive them, in compelling their removal when inadvertently admitted. Its duty to the public, from whose treasury these buildings have been erected, imposes the obligation that they shall be used for their legal purpose, and that the children's bread shall not be misapplied. Its decrees may often involve considerations not to be explained or communicated, and should be final without question or appeal.

Should the benefits of the Institution be confined to such alone as have acquired or inherited a legal settlement, it would remain much of the time untenanted. Whoever are familiar with Boston and its people, know well that there are but few of this class who do

not prefer the privacy of their own dwellings, and the attendance of their own kindred, to any advantage to be gained from the best scientific care in a hospital. This feeling is deeply seated, and prevailed extensively in Massachusetts in the early days of hospital experience. One of our former governors, who had held the highest federal offices at home and abroad, who gave to the University its largest bequest, meeting with an accident in the street from which he narrowly escaped with his life, insisted, in order to remove this prejudice, upon being carried to the Hospital. His example may have had its effect. But we doubt if many of our own people, born in Boston, when tolerably comfortable at home, will go, when ill, among strangers to be cured.

This great emporium of commercial and social activity to the Commonwealth and surrounding States, has expanded with the national life far beyond any natural laws of development. Its wealth and position have attracted from sea and shore, as from distant lands, not the magnates of our exchange alone, or our professional celebrities, but the great mass of our industry, enterprise, and thrift. Our own youth, as they reach maturity, seek more encouraging theatres of action abroad, or where the days lengthen in the West; and strangers in lineament and language swarm to our busy hive, where there is work for all. Whoever dwells within our limits should share our privileges,

as well as bear our burdens, and this noble charity will fail of its intent should it not, while considerate of every prejudice, treat with the same impartial tenderness all sects, colors, and nationalities.

It was the often expressed opinion of the early advocates for the establishment of this Institution, that young men and women from other towns or States, engaged here in earning their livelihood, would derive from it the principal advantage. Their meagre recompense furnishes no supplies for illness. They reside in crowded dwellings, whose proprietors, by rigid economy, just meeting their own obligations, cannot afford to be generous. In cold rooms, with unsuitable nourishment, they are often driven to distant homes to perish. Their toil contributes to our prosperity; they form an important part of our population; many among them, in the future, will be the most useful members of our society. They would seem, of all others, entitled, by a liberal interpretation of the statute, to enjoy its benefits,—care of course being taken to secure a just reimbursement when authorized by law. Travellers at public houses, when overtaken by disease, away from family and friends, are also objects of compassion; and for them are arranged, in the central building, commodious apartments, where every comfort and luxury, within their means to purchase, will be supplied.

Were the roofs of a great city once removed, and we

were permitted to witness all the aches and agonies that rack our fellow-mortals; could we realize, as we walk the crowded thoroughfares, how few of those we meet are free from corporal infirmities, life would lose half its charm. Yet how much of this suffering might be prevented or relieved. If no good caliph wanders under our stars, with succor or bezants for those who need, Christian charity should never rest, so long as it may at least alleviate the ill it cannot cure. How many are condemned to bear, through long and painful years, bodily afflictions, without hope this side the tomb. Could such as these be welcomed, for a while, within these walls, and learn how, when again at home, to mitigate their pains, much useless sorrow might be saved.

For years over all our land will be left the footprints of this insane Rebellion, its desolating mark throughout our habitations. The poignancy of recent bereavement, the wail of woe refusing to be comforted may give place to chastened, hallowed pride in the heroic dead. The veteran will glory in his scars, in the national emblem retrieved from dishonor, by his valor and his blood. Yet if since Eden, strife has been the penalty of man, if a great people must have a great and eventful history, if warfare be the appointed discipline of nations, its consequences are still to be deplored. Already more than a million cases have thronged our army wards. The maimed and crippled haunt our

daily paths. Shattered constitutions will long plead and not in vain for our softest couch, our choicest ointments, and even now, should no place be elsewhere left for that vast host that forms war's latest harvest, many may find it here and not exclude those for whose especial use these buildings were erected.

To the wan mother, who has wasted what remained to her of strength in tears for the lost objects of her love; for once vigorous manhood, now prostrate in its prime, to whose impoverishment, perhaps embittered by exile, death would be but a too welcome guest; for the noble boy, doubly endeared by parental solicitude, who may yet, perhaps, be snatched from an untimely doom, when they lie down here on their sick-beds, to live or die, as Heaven in its mercy may decree, there should be kindly yielded every solace of a home. For those fearful casualties, to which we are all of us at any time exposed, these wards should open their doors both day and night. The workman fearlessly exposing himself to the perils of his craft, any individual sustaining bodily harm amidst the turmoil and confusion of our busy life, is entitled to the kindest care. Homeless wanderers about our streets, whose misfortunes are aggravated by disease, should be provided with temporary shelter. Indeed, we trust wherever removal to the islands or the almshouses would be a hardship, our sterner policy will bow to the gentler instincts of humanity.

Dread of contagion, demoralizing all sense of consanguinity or obligation, has yielded to the advance of science. Still, it is generally admitted that miasmata or exhalations from infected bodies taint the atmosphere, and where there exists susceptibility, communicate disease. Measles, mumps, and similar affections, universal heirlooms of our nature, hid in its bud and thrown off with its expansion, and working it free from liability to their recurrence, will rarely have occasion to cross our threshold. But the great scourges of our race, variola, scarlatina, typhus, and various cutaneous afflictions, treated abroad promiscuously in public wards, should neither be left in crowded dwellings to fester and corrupt, or permitted to strike consternation here, or in families near by. Gathered into separate buildings, every where and at all times permeated by fresh currents of air, to be drawn off and divested of impurities by passing through burning flames, they will be rendered harmless, and every reasonable apprehension of their spreading be removed.

Consumption, paralysis, spinal maladies, and others usually pronounced incurable, may be rapid in their work or painfully protracted. Professional experience may conjecture probabilities, but not determine. If there is possibility of substantial relief from temporary care, they fall within the statute, but the Board must decide each case upon its merits. The general average of hospital treatment is about thirty days, and pro-

longed and helpless suffering would occupy space intended for a different purpose. We undoubtedly need, and eventually may hope, to possess distinct establishments for paralysis and chest diseases, for those who are bedridden or decrepid from other bodily infirmities. Let us hope, that that wisdom, which presides over our numerous public and private institutions, will soon see the importance of acting in unison, and of apportioning their respective fields of usefulness, so as to secure to every grief its suitable asylum.

There are others to whom it is to be wished that these gates may not be forever closed. One objection to many against recourse to hospital treatment is that they must be deprived of the attendance of their own physicians. If this indulgence could be permitted at the discretion of the Board, and at once withdrawn when tending to evil, the usefulness of the Institution might be enlarged.

A numerous and intelligent portion of our people believe in the views of Hahnemann, that what produces disease will cure it, and that there are specifics, of which infinitesimal doses will restore the health, however much disturbed. They have requested part of our buildings for their patients and practice, under charge of their own physicians. The petitioners are men of character, tax-payers, entitled to consideration; but such radical differences of professional opinion exist between their practitioners and the regular faculty,

that any attempt to combine both methods of cure under the same roof, must inevitably lead to contention. Far better for the city treasury to contribute at some future day in aid of a separate establishment.

Electricity, hydropathy, hot and cold, mild and heroic, Thompsonianism, Indian herbs and simples, all have their advocates as sovereign remedies, as universal panaceas. Some even have faith, as modes of cure, in clairvoyance, mesmerism, spiritualism, and manifold other popular fallacies. The proposed practice here, while sanctioned by the Government, will be that taught in our University, followed by the larger number of our faculty, and by the leaders of professional science in all civilized countries. Our medical board are competent to determine the efficacy of new methods, and sufficiently independent to put them to practical use when approved. If in a popular institution all opinions are to be treated with respect, the authorities as constituted are responsible and must decide what can be safely adopted. When, in their judgment, baths, electric currents, or patent medicines, will soothe pain, or drive away peccant humors from the blood, no bias or preconceived notion will be permitted to stand in the way of their application. Patients requiring other treatment than that provided here, must seek it somewhere else.

We need feel but little apprehension that our wards will remain idle. We trust that no calamity will

ever crowd them as were those of the Hotel Dieu, of Paris, the oldest hospital of Europe, now being demolished, which a century ago contained, with its twelve hundred beds, sometimes more than four thousand patients, four to each, with relays like Bex and Cox in the play. But should we be spared the scourge of war near home, cholera or other epidemics may again revisit us. If, in our temperate zone, and with our present sanitary precautions, the smallpox, and the plague, or pestilence in shapes as malignant and appalling, which in other climes and ages have depopulated cities, are no longer to be dreaded, Pandora's box is not yet exhausted. Disorders numberless will still defy prevention, and harass our poor bodies from the cradle to the grave. Within a few years, six hospitals have been established here, or greatly enlarged, and all their beds are in request. A city so affluent as Boston may well be provided in advance of present wants, and prepared for exigencies that may come when least expected.

These buildings now at the extreme limits of our population, will soon be in the midst of a crowded neighborhood. Ascend our cupola when the sun is bright and the tide full, the pleasant scene around and beneath, wings the imagination into a future, not far remote. Easy communication with Dorchester Bay for drainage and perhaps for navigation, long blocks of houses approaching completion, numerous works de-

voted to the useful arts, remind us of our rapid growth. All this territory converging to one centre, and bound by common interests, must become compact, homogeneous, one municipality. No natural barrier prevents consolidation, and as our commercial consequence in the view of distant merchants, when they seek a market for their merchandise, depends in some measure on our reputed wealth and numbers, the liberal use of these halls may become another argument with our sister city, as well as with ourselves, in favor of annexation. But whether united or separated, it would be churlish to refuse to neighboring places, or to other parts of the Commonwealth, space within our walls not needed for our own inhabitants.

Should their reception involve the construction of additional buildings, with due equivalents, this will be no disadvantage. Pavilions corresponding to our present wings would give opportunity for better classification, for separating sexes, ages, and conditions, maladies that may annoy or be offensive. Persons who are sensitive should be spared from the ravings of delirium, the susceptible and timid saved from the terrors of contagion, the innocence of childhood from contamination even more to be dreaded. Humanity casts a veil round life trembling at its fountain, lulls to the repose which renews its vigor, shrouds with solemn stillness, the couch on which it is ebbing away forever. The quiet pervading these chambers of the

sick is ever impressive, but the restlessness of fever, the moan of pain, even the gliding form and muffled tread may at times disturb. Rooms* sufficiently numerous for all forms and stages of disease, afford facilities for cure, desirable when prudence justifies the cost.

Any considerable increase of numbers, rendering imperative such an extension, will warrant the continued residence on the premises of a physician, familiar with practice, who without interfering with the treatment prescribed by the regular medical attendants can decide questions of detail, constantly occurring in critical cases, to the great comfort and safety of the patients. Recovery often depends upon the instant application of powerful remedies, a responsibility not to be assumed without experience, and for three fourths of each day no other physician will be within call but the resident graduates. In the night season in a large city, the victims of violence from vice or intemperance, are more numerous than by day, and frequently must be operated upon forthwith for the preservation of life. Moreover, in ascertaining the propriety of admitting applicants, a duty is to be performed demanding a thorough knowledge of the symptoms of numberless complaints, and which does not properly fall within the province either of the graduates or attending physicians.

The disorder of the applicant may be contagious, chronic, or incurable, better cared for at home or

in some other hospital; perhaps with some simple remedy, some slight operation, employments may be resumed, on which the family bread is dependent. Dispensary may serve as well as hospital treatment, and will be extended here, at stated times, to the needy. Provision is made for this in other sections of the city, but to be very useful to busy toil, should be close at hand. When we reflect how often the households of the poor are thrown into confusion by pain or other bodily disability, what sacrifices of personal comfort and usefulness, what heavy burdens on society from pauperism and mendicancy are prevented by the timely check of disease, we know how to value our good Samaritans. But shame to him who has abundant means and does not pay his physician. The supply of science and skill are proportionate to their reward, and he wrongs the public who withholds the recompense in his power to pay, either for medical counsel or hospital care. Practical wisdom, professional experience, incessant vigilance, must be the three-headed Cerberus at our gates to protect us from imposition, and to keep out of our beds those who ought not to be here.

Established precedent, immemorial usage cannot be easily, should not be lightly disturbed, and yet if religious exercises are appropriate in halls of instruction or legislation, they surely cannot be out of place among the sick and the dying. The wards of St. Luke's com-

municate with the chapel, and the sacred language of praise and supplication, mingled with choral harmonies, are daily wafted to the bedside of those inclined to devotion. Catholic rites, where requested, have been always administered in our other hospitals, and will be here; but the institution recently endowed by the pious benevolence of the late Mr. Carney, was founded for the express purpose of securing to his own persuasion the consolations of religion. With our entire liberty and toleration, and numerous differences of conviction and faith, no form would escape cavil; but as we all worship the same Supreme Being, and believe in the Divine mission and revelation of the Saviour as our guide and comforter, passages can undoubtedly be selected from the Scriptures, and modes of expression devised, not justly objectionable to any reasonable Christian. May we not hope that in some future extension of our buildings, a chapel will be constructed, connected with wards for such as take pleasure in stated and social devotional observances.

Attached to some of the more recent English and French hospitals are retreats for convalescence in the country or by the sea. Neither our climate nor circumstances render necessary for us any such appendage. But removal from ward routine when no longer required, would in many cases lead to more rapid restoration. In the event of enlargement, apartments should be arranged for this use, and suitable

regulations established. Possibly, when the march of improvement reaches our public institutions, separating poverty and vice, within the precincts appropriated to the worthy poor, may be found change of air, diet, and exercise for convalescents, when recommended by their physicians.

Pathological cabinets, wax preparations of the different parts of the human organization, a library of medical works for reference are of daily use for the treatment of the sick, and should be collected as expeditiously as may be found practicable. These wants can only be in part supplied by purchase; but we may safely rely upon the freewill offerings of individuals and kindred charities possessed of duplicates for much valuable aid.

But we must not be impatient. Defects, as discovered, will be remedied, and improvements, not now within our foresight to anticipate, will be suggested as time develops their need. Our six large wards, with the smaller apartments attached, will, in all probability, answer every purpose for years. While they are made useful to their utmost capacity, for the reception of every case that can with propriety be admitted, we may feel assured that the Institution is administered in that spirit of charity on which it should rest as a foundation.

With the best of intentions, this spirit of charity may be often at fault. Patients, at times, should be diverted

from their bodily ailments. Occupation in preventing fever or ensuring sleep, is of more avail than drugs. Books and work and means for recreation should be liberally supplied, and the visits of their friends and relatives, of the clergy, where they are religiously disposed, should be encouraged.

All the hours of hospital life are not necessarily tedious or without their enjoyments. The beams of the morning bring to it their cheer, the gathering dusks of twilight, a serene repose. Periodical seasons of refreshment, daily news and correspondence, the professional round, the official inspection vary its monotony. Friends drop in to gossip, some good soul lends vocal charm to lyric or romance. Sympathy with others dulls the consciousness of pain; dispels despondency. Companionship, mutual interchange of courtesy and kindness, incidents of arrival and departure, events which in that little world rise almost to historical importance, occupy attention, and the day flits by on wings of gossamer. When the night shuts in, and light subdued flings phantom shadows round these murky halls, sleep comes with dreams, or to the vigil reveries of home, of past experience, or of future hope.

The tempers of men are as various as the leaves of the forest. In health, and under social restraints, they betray many a trait that is displeasing. In serious illness, the well-regulated, sustained by an unflinching

trust, are but the more gentle and tractable, and submit with resignation to what is not to be avoided. Others, when fretted by twinges of pain, or excited by fever, become querulous, unreasonable, exacting. Tact and firmness, united with an imperturbable amiability, are requisite to tolerate their caprices when harmless, to quiet and control ebullitions of feeling prejudicial to themselves and disagreeable to their neighbors. Nurses, as accomplished as Mary and Rebecca Taylor, at the Massachusetts, as the excellent women who for years have devoted their gratuitous services at St. Luke's, — “who possess the essential qualifications of obedience, presence of mind, cheerfulness, sobriety, patience, forbearance, judgment, kindness of heart, a light delicate hand, a gentle voice and quick eye,” and others that might be indefinitely added, — may not be easily procured; but where there is sense and religious principle there will soon be little to learn.

Deviations from usual modes of management, where experience elsewhere warrants, may well be tested. If there be no immediate hope of our wards being under other charge than that of paid nurses, time will determine what can be achieved by our medical staff and enlightened Board. One principal duty of woman is tending the sick, the wounded soldier has especial claim upon her sympathy, and she is ever prompt to meet these sacred obligations. When the three great powers of Europe settled down in the trenches of Se-

bastopol, for a sanguinary and exhausting strife, the spirit of holiness in Florence Nightingale and her companions hovered about the pillows of the victims, anticipating every want, assuaging the anguish from the battle-field by the shadow on the wall.

In this, our vital struggle for national existence, from the abodes of affluence as from the humble cot, hundreds of generous-hearted women have cheerfully braved perils and privations, proving by perseverance, notwithstanding discouragement, that principle, as well as inclination, were in their work. Should the Supreme Disposer of events restore peace to the land, with our Union and Constitutional liberties preserved, there will be many a one who has gone from amongst us willing to lend an institution like this the benefit of her experience. She will have learnt that there is something in life better worth than ease. Without sacrificing the social refinements and recreations, she will have earned a double right to enjoy, or losing that cheerfulness which is the grace of womanhood, she will gladly pursue a course of usefulness, in which she has found her truest happiness. When we dwell upon some lovely being who has deserted the halls of gayety to moisten the parched lip, or soothe to rest the aching head, we are irresistibly reminded of the familiar lines in Marmion : —

Oh, woman, in our hours of ease,
So fickle, coy, and hard to please ;

And variable as the shade
 By the light quivering aspen made ;
 When pain and anguish wring the brow,
 A ministering angel thou !

In Italy, as one of our former mayors, the founder of the school at Westboro' informs us, in his interesting work upon that country, persons of the highest rank and condition employ themselves in these pious offices. From the early dawn of Christianity, women under its inspiration have associated for the care of the sick. In the fourth century the community at Bethlehem, of Paula daughter of the Gracchi; in the seventh, the Hospitallers of Paris and Beguines of Flanders; in the thirteenth, the Grey sisters, enrolling royalty on its throne with the lowliest of the lowly; in the fifteenth, the societies of Martha, sister of Lazarus, and of Elizabeth, the saintly Queen of Hungary; in the seventeenth, the sisters of charity, reorganized by Vincent de Paul and Louise Legras, now twelve thousand in number, either with or without religious vows or profession, have made this their vocation. Nor Catholics alone, but many a Protestant Evangeline in sober garb, with aspect holy, recalls from death or cheers the passing spirit at its gates. In our own day, a bright light from Kaiserswerth sheds far and wide the wisdom of its teachings, and even here across the broad Atlantic is felt its mild effulgence. I care not to profane with praise our heavenly minded women, who

have consecrated their youth and all earthly joys to this sacred calling. We have no calendar, but the beauty of their lives, the daily incense of grateful hearts below, their inscription in the book of life above, will be their guerdon. Let us hope that their example will be emulated for our benefit, that the art of nursing may be made a study, and its blessings carried home to every household. If the strict discipline, indispensable in a public institution like this, prohibits so great an innovation, unless by degrees and at a distant day, if there exist present obstacles and prejudices in the way of its adoption, we doubt not that in time these will all be surmounted.

Disinterested zeal for the relief of human misery inspires a sentiment for which admiration is but a cold expression. How can we sufficiently commend the generous devotion of our medical board, who, prompted by humanity, offer us their gratuitous attendance. We must mourn over one of their number, the lamented Dalton, for us unseasonably summoned to the reward of his well-spent life. May the survivors be long spared to a community that knows how to value their services and their example. The distinction which they have honorably earned in their several spheres of professional employment, will reflect lustre upon the Hospital, be auspicious of its continuing hold on popular regard. But their labors here or in accustomed paths will not win them their only laurels. Various public interests,

which they have promoted, must long pay tribute to their indefatigable exertions.

In this unnatural warfare, the patriotic ardor and active usefulness of the medical faculty have been conspicuous, wherever they could be made availing. Their alacrity in hastening, regardless of personal safety, to the fields reeking with slaughter, to succor the wounded and the dying, the practical wisdom with which they have brought order out of confusion in the hospitals of the army, their persevering efforts to comfort and to save vast multitudes of the victims of battle and disease, holocausts to Freedom, the Isaacs of a loyal people, demand more fitting eulogy than mine. Their country will keep them ever in remembrance ; they will have their part in that imperishable renown, in that wreath streaming with fraternal blood, but resplendent with heroic action, that will crown this great historic epoch. Happy should we be, that we have secured for the administration of this charity a share in the skill and experience gained in our sacred crusade for National existence.

Let me also briefly allude, with respect, to the younger followers of science, who, influenced by a laudable ambition, or a sense of duty, are willing to watch, day and night, by the bedside of the suffering. Their reward will be the experience gained of disease, in its symptoms, progress, and cure. But the eagerness with which such appointments are solicited, although

the daily round is both wearisome and repulsive, is highly creditable to the motives which actuate the profession.

One most valuable return to society for the liberal endowment of charities like this, is the improvement of medical science,—the efficient training of its professors. This is an advantage reaped by all of us, for it is only where the numerous complaints, which are our inheritance in the flesh, are presented in their various forms, and in cases frequently recurring, that they can be understood. Nor, indeed, could we have the benefit of that surgical skill, by which many a precious life is prolonged, were it not for hospital practice. The surgeons permitted to operate are selected for their ability; in Paris, we are told, the most distinguished compete for this honor, through the most searching ordeal; and operations upon the poorest hospital patients are performed with as much skill, with as much thoughtful tenderness, as can be procured by wealth or the highest social position.

In the apartment appropriated for surgical operations, accommodation is provided for students. Their most important knowledge is not obtained from the study of books, thorough as that should be, but from actual observation. The proximity of the Massachusetts to the College, will attract there, as heretofore, the greater number of pupils. Should any prefer to walk our wards, this will be allowed under reasonable

regulations, and the privilege, perhaps, also extended for clinical instruction. It should never be forgotten that the chief object is the cure and comfort of the patients. Their situation ought not to expose them to a painful scrutiny, or a publicity from which they shrink.

This is not the place, nor is it my purpose to indulge in panegyric on either thought or deed which have made this hospital what it is ; but the practical sense and mechanical ingenuity of the Superintendent, in its arrangement for use, have proved invaluable, and cannot be too highly extolled. The career on which he is entering will afford scope for the exercise of all his faculties and powers, and earn for him additional claims to public esteem. But these earlier services should not be permitted to pass into oblivion ; they should be treasured up with all the other precious instrumentalities which form an important part of our early history.

The supreme control, in due subordination always of course to the City Government, is in the Board of Trustees, consisting of two Aldermen and three members of the Council, to be annually elected, and three citizens, to be chosen, one each year, for triennial periods. Theirs will be the enviable prerogative of watching over the welfare of the unfortunate, of making provision for their wants, of tranquillizing their anxieties, of cheering their distress. On their judg-

ment will be devolved the responsibility of determining who shall be admitted, of deciding questions, when epidemics are prevailing, having an important bearing upon the health of the city. It will be their incumbent duty to keep themselves informed of the character and conduct of all persons employed, to correct abuses, to establish reasonable rules of government, to enforce their observance and the most rigid economy in every department.

So long as the novelty lasts, these duties will be attractive, and with our present Superintendent, their discharge will be of less importance. Should the members of the City Council on the Board, find in process of time their attention too much engrossed by other claims, the remedy will be to increase the number of Trustees chosen at large. This will insure greater permanence of policy, and in the tenure of hospital offices, and also preserve the management from disarrangement with fluctuations of party, or changes in the City Council. It will be more in accordance with the organization of our other Boards of Control, which has been found to work well.

Throughout our Institutions, pauper, penal, and reformatory, reigns the strictest frugality. The treatment of disease demands a more varied and expensive nourishment. This is true economy, inasmuch as it accelerates cure, and by restoring the industrious to their employments, relieves the public of their support.

Yet, without constant watchfulness, waste and extravagance, if no greater evil, will creep in. Such abuses will not escape the attention of the Board, but method and accountability, firmly established from the outset, and rigidly observed, will justify the government in ample appropriations, inspire our fellow-citizens with confidence in their judicious expenditure, and encourage liberal endowments.

The name of Elisha Goodnow is the first engraved upon our commemorative tablet. The son of a revolutionary pensioner, lately living in Sudbury, of a family who have given bountifully of their means to public objects, his memory will be gratefully perpetuated while this edifice endures. What is known of his life vouches for the philanthropy which actuated his donation, and his example, as well as that of Lawrence Nichols, also on our roll of benefactors, will stir the hearts of other men to like generosity. All who are familiar with the history of charities here, or in other parts of the Christian world, cannot fail to have observed in their progress and prosperity an especial blessing. Vast sums, in all countries, for nearly twenty centuries, have been poured out like water for their foundation and support. There is yet balm in Gilead; the angel of pity will still hover over us, with healing in its wings. We should do injustice to our community did we doubt their readiness to respond, as heretofore, to every claim. Whoever is rich, with no

+ a French Confectioner

family dependent on his means, whoever would secure for his children a blessing on their inheritance, will remember the poor in disposing of his substance. Whoever would lay up treasure in Heaven will give freely here to the sick and feeble. Let them remember that famous epitaph of Old England, on the tomb in the ancient church at **Tiverton**.

Hoe! Hoe! who lies here?
 'T is I, the good earl of Devonshire,
 With Kate my wife to me full deer:
 We lyved together fyfty fyve yeere.
 That wee spent wee had.
 That wee lefte wee loste.
 That wee gave wee have.

Instructive and entertaining works for the library, pictures, engravings, and statuary, will be acceptable offerings; the purple clusters that load the vine or adorn the banquet, will lose no flavor by being shared with our less favored inmates; funds at largest interest and made safe by public obligation, will prove for ages a perennial source of thankfulness to the wretched, and for descendants, be a more enduring monument than bronze or marble. Such pious gifts will soon furnish a sufficient resource for the daily needs of the Hospital, and the comfort it dispenses will flow directly, in copious and refreshing streams from the cup of charity.

In health and strength, in the midst of a useful career, with all our faculties in active vigor, it is difficult to realize the fevered brow, the sleepless night, and the aching limb ; but to these, for all future time, we dedicate these halls. To you, gentlemen of the City Council, to you, honored members of the medical profession, will be confided the charge of our afflicted fellow-beings. Yours is a solemn responsibility ; yours the blessed privilege of working out, with the aid of science, with nature, and with an overruling Providence, their restoration. We need not fear this sacred duty will be neglected. That Great Being who permits no suffering in His creation but in mercy, will be tender of his own ; and Boston, throughout her numberless generations, will rejoice in the pride and the blessing of the Institution which we have this day consecrated.

